

AWARDS BESTOWED NOVEMBER 2014 to MARCH 2016

Case 1721

BENJAMIN RICHARD DARE

SILVER MEDAL

Early in the morning of 4 May 2013, Scott Blackford-Scheele and Ben Dare, members of a team who were in Nepal to attempt to reach the 6900m summit of the never-before-attempted peak Anidesha Chuli (White Wave), departed Camp 2 which had been established at 6000m to begin their summit attempt.

Their target in the first instance was to reach the mountain's East Ridge and establish a camp upon the Ridge crest at 6500m by climbing what had appeared to be a moderately sloping snow shelf which rose up 200m to the base of a steep 400m tall face the top of which formed the East Ridge of White Wave. It had been decided that this face would provide straightforward but difficult access to the ridge, which could then be climbed to the summit. However, they found that the face was in fact a cascading glacier fraught, in places, with nearly hundred-metre-tall ice cliffs, deep crevasses with black bottoms, teetering seracs (three-story-house-sized blocks of ice leaning over at severe angles, ready to fall), and patches of unstable snow.

The trauma began at 2.45pm, just short of the ridge, when Scott who was leading and was roped to Ben but with no intermediate anchors, set off a small avalanche at 6450 metres and fell between 80-90 metres down ice cliffs and steep snow covered ice ramps, being held only by the rope which Ben was holding tightly. He was attached to it by a snow stake anchor which fortunately held.

Scott was knocked unconscious and ended his fall hanging upside down.

Ben Dare who was in trouble himself with a debilitating cough which was exacerbated at altitude, abseiled down to him and found that as he regained consciousness Scott was confused, disorientated and at times delirious. He could see that Scott would obviously be incapable of making his own way down.

He realized that he had only one course of action open to him.

Over a period of 3-4 hours he lowered his climbing partner and their gear 100 metres to reach a small ledge where, in fading light and deteriorating weather, he set up their tent. Overnight he gave Scott his down jacket for warmth leaving himself at risk in the cold.

The next morning for a period of five hours Dare continued with the lowering process a further 250 metres. Since Blackford-Scheele was unable to function properly he had no other option but to lower him straight down through the cliff area they had zigzagged up while climbing. There was a danger in this, created by the possibility of falling debris and having to move through loose snow slopes they had chosen to avoid as they climbed.

When they reached easier ground, but were in knee-deep snow Scott was unable to walk without help or carry anything. With great difficulty and taking 3 hours to do so they were able to return to Camp 2 some 750 metres away further down the mountain where they waited in their tent until help from team members from Camp 1, who had been alerted when their locator beacon had been activated, arrived at 3a.m. on 6th May, a journey which had taken them nine hours.

36 hours had elapsed when at 10a.m. on the 6th May they were both flown by helicopter to Kathmandu where Mr Blackford-Scheele was treated in Intensive-Care for a week.

But for the selfless actions of Ben Dare in bringing him down the mountain in the challenging conditions, Scott Blackford-Scheele could not have survived.

On 1 December 2013, a little after noon, two helicopters that were tasked to take a scientist and two field training officers (FTO) to the a penguin rookery at Cape Darnley, about 360 km to the west-north-west, departed Davis Base (Davis), Antarctica, and flew in tandem 220 kms to Sansom Island and then a further 130Kms on to the Fila Rookery

One of those piloted by Ian Porter had as passengers Barbara Wienecke, a scientist and Anthea Fisher a Field Technical Officer while the other piloted by John Oakes had Simon Cross, lead Field Training Officer as passenger. Simon was trained specifically in search and rescue and survival skills.

At 7.00pm, once the scientist and FTOs had completed their duties at the rookery, the helicopters departed on the return journey, in fine clear weather, via the Amery ice shelf to refuel. After refueling, and with Ian Porter leading, the helicopters then departed for Davis.

A half hour later and 4 nautical miles out, the horizon definition had degraded quickly and the pilots agreed that with good clear definition to the right and behind, they would return to their previous landing spot and wait.

While making his turn Oakes, saw Porter's aircraft crash a half mile ahead of him. Not believing what he had seen he did a complete orbit and verified that the helicopter had indeed crashed in near whiteout conditions.

He decided to attempt a descent using the wreckage as a positional guide and the radio altimeter as a vertical reference above the indistinguishable ice. Not a recommended practice and he knew that once committed there was no turning away. As he neared the wreckage perception became a little clearer and he landed 15 metres from it.

Believing that there could be no survivors they were surprised when a few minutes later there was movement to the left of the wreckage and they saw Anthea Fisher crawling through the snow away from the wreck and then Ian Porter appeared. He was crouched over before dropping to his knees. Anthea had suspected spinal injuries. Ian had bad chest and shoulder injuries on his left side. Barbara Wienecke was found hanging upside down in the wreck held by her seat belt, with a foot caught in a seat panel. Considerable force was needed, to get into the wreck and make enough room to reach the belt and release it. She had facial injuries with cuts above her nose and an eye and a bad cut in her scalp.

John Oakes raised the alarm. A Twin Otter aircraft arrived overhead but due to the deteriorating weather and the surrounding area of bad crevices, it was unable to land.

The weather finally made flying impossible with frequent snow showers and blizzard like conditions through the night. John and Simon ensured that all three of the injured had been protected from the elements, Anthea in a bivouac shelter and the others in the rear of John's helicopter.

The following morning Monday 2 December, Oakes was relieved when told by a supporting Bassler DC3 which had arrived overhead that he had a clear path to Sansom Island. Taking Porter and Wienecke he set off at 2pm, reaching the Island 50 minutes later. The Twin-Otter aircraft was waiting to take the two injured on to Davis.

Oakes refueled, reconfigured his helicopter to carry a stretcher patient and with a doctor on board returned to the crash site to retrieve Anthea and Simon.

On arriving they put Anthea into a special Furno Washington stretcher which was secured in the right hand side of the helicopter while Simon Cross and another passenger were in the back seats. They flew first to Sansom Island and then at 6pm they departed for Davis base heading into deteriorating weather.

They arrived at 7.30pm in worsening weather with winds gusting to 58 knots. Their patient was transferred to the medical centre.

John Oakes was totally exhausted at the end of what had been a harrowing 36 hour stretch which he admitted he found rather draining but which thankfully, with luck on their side, had had a happy outcome for all concerned.

Case 1723	REGAN KERRY WOODMASS	CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
	MICHAEL BRENT O'HAGAN	CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
	DION WAYNE TANIWHA	CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

At 7.45am on 8th October 2013 Constables Regan Woodmass and Michael O'Hagan went to a Hokio Beach, Horowhenua, address to execute a warrant to arrest for the occupant.

On their arrival the female occupant refused to open the door and refused to communicate with them. Instead she moved back into the house.

During his attempt to establish contact with her Constable Woodmass noticed smoke and flames coming from the house. They were not at the time aware but it later transpired that the source was three fires which the occupant had set before moving out to the rear of the property to avoid them.

Constable Woodmass notified the Fire Service and then the Constables, believing that the occupant was still in the house and at risk, gained entry through the front door and began to search for her. The house was filled with smoke and well alight. A section of the roof had started to collapse.

On two occasions while they attempted to search they had been driven from the property by the heat and smoke as the fire intensified. They continued and were joined by a local man, Dion Taniwha who was passing. He assisted the Constables to reach an area of the house which had not previously been searched.

They were ultimately forced to abandon their search of the house and later found the woman hiding in a stand of trees behind it.

All three suffered from smoke inhalation. The house was totally destroyed

Case 1724	ANGUS LIAM PAULEY	BRONZE MEDAL
	JEREMY DAVID McKENZIE	BRONZE MEDAL

On the 11th June 2014 at 8.50am in the Taylor River Reserve, Blenheim, the Taylor River was in flood and flowing swiftly.

At the High Street Bridge an 11 year-old girl, Tenishya McIsaac who was waste deep in water, was attempting to cross trying to push her bike.

Angus Pauley 17, who was being driven over the bridge, noticed her standing in the water. She appeared to be in trouble. He asked his mother who was driving, to stop the vehicle. He called to the girl who asked for his help. He asked his mother to ring Police. When he turned back to the river he saw that the girl was being swept downstream.

He ran down the riverbank chasing her. He could see that she was panicking.

At this point Jeremy McKenzie who was on his way to work and who was also crossing the bridge saw what was happening and gave chase. He caught up with Pauley just down from the bridge. The two of them decided to enter the river to rescue Tenishya.

Mr Pauley stripped to his underwear and entered the river at that point. He reached the girl while Mr McKenzie ran further down the river to a point where he believed he could swim out to catch the two as they came down, which he did, and they swam the girl into the shore where they were still waist deep in water and extremely cold. The girl appeared to be unconscious at that stage

When they got Tenishya out of the water it was obvious she had swallowed a considerable amount of water. Police Officers had arrived and assisted in getting her out and away from the water and up to the edge of the road where she regained consciousness. She was exhaling water from her mouth and was having trouble breathing. Ambulance were called

The Taylor River which was flowing in full flood runs through a Reserve which has a number of fixed rubbish bins, fixed seats and low bridges that cross the river. At the height the water was running all of these obstacles were completely submerged and with the natural trees and flax together with trees and other debris being washed down from further upstream were a considerable risk of injury to all three of those in the water.

The water was a cold 10 degrees and approximately three metres deep.

Had Angus Pauley and Jeremy McKenzie not entered the water and rescued Tenishya, who could not swim, she would almost certainly have become entangled in obstacles and injured or drowned.

Both she and Angus were hospitalised and treated for possible hypothermia. Tenishya was treated for water inhalation also.

Case 1725 ROBERT JACOBUS BORST BRONZE MEDAL
PETER RONALD MULDREW BRONZE MEDAL

On 18th April 2014, The North Otago Region was hit with a weather bomb which dumped rain throughout the district causing massive flooding.

Robert Borst, a local farmer, and Sergeant Peter Muldrew, North Otago SAR Coordinator worked together when going to the rescue of Mrs. Rhoda Davidson who became stuck in flood waters of the Kakanui River at Fuschia Creek,

Waitaki, when her vehicle was swept down river and into a paddock where it was being held tenuously against a wire fence. Observers could see it moving.

Mrs Davidson had smashed the driver's window of her vehicle and climbed onto the roof as the water rose quickly to just under the roof.

A helicopter rescue was considered but Power lines were directly above where Mrs Davidson was stranded. Although power had been turned off there was still uncertainty that the system was completely isolated, making rescue by helicopter too dangerous.

Several other means of rescuing her including the use of a jet boat were considered

After discussions with Fire Chief Bevan Koppert, Robert Borst initially tried to pull her car out of the river using a heavy tractor from his farm but after getting within 20 metres of the car the strength of the water forced it sideways almost lifting it downstream. That attempt was abandoned.

As an alternative, Mr Borst suggested that his 14 tonne digger which would sit lower in the water would be better. He brought that to the scene and manoeuvred it into the river to test it. He got within 10 metres of the car and was satisfied that he could reach it with his bucket but realized that Mrs. Davidson would need assistance to get into it. He went back to get Sergeant Muldrew who it had been agreed would go out with him to get Mrs. Davidson into the bucket.

He tracked out again until the digger began bobbing in the water. He had Sergeant Muldrew sitting on the front end engine cowling which was considered to be safer than in the bucket while the digger was tracking out. When in position Borst got him to climb into the bucket of the digger and extended the boom to full reach. Mrs. Davidson was then helped into the bucket by Sergeant Muldrew.

At this time water was above the engine. Had it gone into the intake the engine would have been affected. It was also going into the cab of the digger, close to the electrics which could have impacted upon the ability of the digger to operate.

Mr Borst walked the digger out of the water and onto dry land. Mrs Davidson's ordeal sitting on the roof of her car leaving her cold, stiff and sore, had continued for over 2 hours. Once she was on dry land she was attended to by a paramedic and treated for hypothermia.

The actions of Robert Borst and Peter Muldrew in putting their own lives at risk had ensured the safe rescue of Rhoda Davidson, undoubtedly saving her life.

Case 1726 **LUKE EDWARD JOHN HOGAN** **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**
 MARCUS IKENASIO AUYA'A **LETTER OF**
COMMENDATION

During the early afternoon of 16 May 2014 Police were called to a domestic incident at a central city hotel involving two women who had been in a relationship for approximately a year. Constables Luke Hogan and Probationary Constable Marcus Auva'a located both women outside the building and spoke to each of them. One of the females had assaulted the other.

Both females were upset and feelings were running high, with the 22 year old offender exhibiting remorse over her actions and the victim unwilling to provide a statement. Constables Hogan and Auva'a escorted the females to their 17th floor apartment in order to assess the scene and for the victim to pack some clothing to leave and the offender to change her clothing.

Constable Auva'a remained with the victim while she packed some clothing, while Constable Hogan remained with the offender. The offender started looking through some clothing on the bed to replace her damaged trousers. As she did so Constable Hogan briefly turned to check on Constable Auva'a and the victim.

As he turned he heard the balcony door open. He turned back and saw the offender move swiftly onto the balcony and swing her body over the railing, her clear intent being to throw herself from the 17th floor balcony. Constable Hogan lunged forward and grabbed her wrist as she pushed off from the railing.

Calling for help from Constable Auva'a, Constable Hogan retained his hold on her, bearing her full body weight, until Constable Auva'a reached him. By his swift actions in reaching her and his determination in holding on to the 165 cm tall woman, he was at risk of being pulled over the railing himself.

The two Constables then dragged the female, who was crying and struggling against their efforts, back over the railing to safety inside the room.

She was placed under arrest for her own safety and removed for mental health assessment.

There is no doubt that without Constable Hogan's intervention the female would have fallen.

Case 1727

ADRIAN EDGAR OLDHAM BRONZE MEDAL

On the 6th of July 2014 , at approximately 6:45pm, Senior Constable Oldham who was on mobile patrol was returning to Papamoa through Mt. Maunganui , when he saw that a small house on Maranui Street was on fire. As he approached he could see smoke and flames billowing from a bedroom window.

He immediately stopped and climbed over the small fence to reach the front ranch slider door. He knocked loudly on the glass door and called out for any occupants. The front living room was filling with smoke.

He saw an elderly woman walk out of the smoke toward the door. She attempted to unlock it but could not before being overcome by smoke. Senior Constable Oldham saw her fall backwards away from the door and into the smoke filled room.

Being unable to enter through that door Senior Constable Oldham went to a smaller side window which he broke and climbed inside.

He attempted to get to the woman but was forced back to the window for air due to the now thick black smoke.

He took a full gasp of air and then held his breath. Unable to see he dropped to his hands and knees and crawled towards where he had seen the woman disappear. Using his hands he felt his way until he managed to locate her.

He pulled her back toward the broken window but his attempts get her through it were unsuccessful.

Constable McCarthy who had arrived on the scene saw the difficulty and managed to break a lower window pane from the outside, putting his duty jacket across the broken glass for protection. The two Constables were then able to move the lady through that window to safety, where they administered first aid until an Ambulance arrived.

Senior Constable Oldham and the woman were taken to the Tauranga Hospital where they were treated for smoke inhalation .

Senior Constable Oldham's actions had clearly prevented a fatality.

Case 1728

**JACOB ALISTAIR GOLDSMITH
CLAIRE TOWNSON
WOO SU CHOI**

**BRONZE MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Late in the evening of 25th January 2014, in the Waikato River under the Bridge in Bridge Street Hamilton, a young man who was attempting to cross the river, was seen by police officers who were looking for him, floating down the river. He was fully clothed and appeared to be in difficulty and at risk of drowning. He was unresponsive to verbal calls.

All three officers entered the river which at that point is 50 metres wide flowing at 5 knots , with dangers from submerged trees, rocks and other obstructions, numerous whirlpools and eddies coupled with overhanging trees and a steep bank making for difficult access. The area was dark.

Constable Goldsmith (28) was the first to enter the water to go to his assistance. He removed his outer clothing and swam 40 metres over to him. He gave encouragement and, telling him to float on his back, held him by the chin to keep his head out of the water, and floated down with him while trying to get to the riverbank.

Constable Townson saw that assistance was needed and followed him. The youth was having difficulty staying afloat. When she reached them he was struggling, grasping at both officers and pulling Constable Goldsmith under the water.

Constable Choi (28) , aware that the youth was in the water had gone across the bridge to intercept him.

He heard a call for assistance from Constable Goldsmith. Discarding his protective vest and fully clothed he entered the water to help. He swam a short distance and together they were able to reach the bank .

Case 1729

TOMAS IAN McBRIDE BRONZE MEDAL

On the 23d of October 2014 at 1.15pm, five men set off from Wellington's Island Bay beach on small rubber rafts which were not designed for rough water use, attempting to reach Tapu te Ranga Island which is 500 metres offshore. The water was cold and rough on an outgoing tide with a gale force Westerly wind blowing.

A member of the public, who was concerned for their safety in the conditions, drew them to the attention of a nearby police unit which took immediate action.

When Constable McBride arrived on the scene he was alerted to one of the rafts which had capsized 300 metres off the shoreline.

The occupant was seen to be making no attempt either to reach the Island or swim back to the shore. He was struggling to stay afloat in the dangerous weather conditions. He was not wearing a life jacket and was obviously in danger of drowning.

Emergency services had been alerted but it was known that Police Launch and Westpac Rescue Helicopter help was some time away. With the male seen to be slipping beneath the surface, Constable McBride being an experienced Police Diver and Surf Lifesaver, made the decision to enter the water and attempt a rescue.

In freezing conditions Constable McBride removed his uniform and swam over 300m to reach the struggling young man and, towing him, was able to bring him towards the shore. He was 10 metres off the beach when the helicopter arrived.

The man was extremely exhausted and suffering the initial stages of hypothermia.

He had to be assisted to the waiting ambulance.

Constable McBride's prompt response and his actions in the trying conditions had clearly saved a life.

Case 1730**TROY KIM MANUELA BRONZE MEDAL**

On the morning of the 7th of July 2013 Troy Manuela and friends who were making their way home to South Auckland got out of a taxi van on Everglade Drive, Manurewa. Unfortunately this happened to be outside an address where four males were drinking.

The four males came out and, intent on trouble, confronted Troy and his friends whose response was simply to attempt to leave.

Troy Manuela fronted up to one of the aggressors and while doing so received a punch to his face. He did not respond.

Punches continued however and one of Troy's friends, Jordon Turu was knocked unconscious. When he was laying on the ground and defenseless all four assailants continued to punch and kick at his head and body.

Seeing this happening, and with total disregard for the obvious risk of grievous harm to himself, Troy Manuela threw himself over his friend and then lay curled up around his head physically shielding him from further blows while he himself suffered severe injury from subsequent punches and kicks to his face, as a result of which his nose was fractured, and he required extensive surgery to save his eyesight which has not fully recovered..

The attack resulted in the arrest of the four aggressors, resulting in convictions for grievous bodily harm.

Case 1731**ROGER HUGO CVTANICH BRONZE MEDAL**

At 11.30pm on the 19th of September 2014 in Hamilton at the Cobham Drive Bridge over the Waikato River. a female was reported to be standing on the bridge in a precarious position holding onto a lamp standard while perched on the railing of the eastern side of the bridge.

Several Constables were sent to the location, along with the Police boat being deployed. On their arrival two constables spoke to the female trying to dissuade her but because of where she was they could not physically restrain her.

Without warning, the female jumped off the railing falling backwards at a 45 degree angle. She hit the water and returned to the surface obviously in pain. She passed under the bridge, and could be seen struggling once she emerged on the northern side.

Constable Roger Cvitanich (42) who had been sent to the western side of the river as a cordon could not see her on the bridge because of the lack of lighting. When he heard the splash he entered the water and swam out under the bridge into the dark, fast flowing river which was in flood with numerous snags and underwater hazards, The water was very cold.

Guided only by the torchlight coming from his colleagues above, he found her and then towed her to the eastern bank of the river.

Due to the bushy terrain there he was unable to climb out of the water. He had to remain there semi submerged and perched on an outcrop of branches near the river bank, while waiting for help.

Exhausted, Constable Cvitanich held her trying to keep her conscious until the police boat arrived.

She was unresponsive and was placed in the Police boat which then returned to the boat ramp where an ambulance was waiting.

On route to the boat ramp officers performed CPR. Once ambulance officers took over she was shocked with a defibrillator to establish a stable heart rhythm.

But for Roger Cvitanich's action in putting himself at risk, it is unlikely she would have survived.

Case 1732

MARK RUSSELL HARRISON

BRONZE MEDAL

Shortly after 1.00am on the morning of 9th February 2015 Hamilton Police responded to emergency calls received, indicating that calls for help from teenage girl had been heard coming from the Waikato River near the Fairfield Bridge.

The night was dark with only torch light available. The river was fast running with floating debris creating hazards

Constable Harrison (36) made his way down to the water's edge on the Eastern side, in amongst trees and vegetation near the walkway on River Rd opposite Clarkin Rd.

He could hear the girl in the water and then saw her approximately 8 metres away from him. She was clearly in difficulty struggling to stay afloat and was not responding to any voice appeals.

When he saw the girl submerge and feared that she would not resurface, Constable Harrison removed his protective vest and then jumped, fully clothed, into the water.

With a torch in his mouth he swam towards her. Just before he reached her she went under again and began to sink. He had to pull her up to the surface by her hair.

The water at that point was approximately 2.5 metres deep. He began to bring her towards the river bank. Once he could touch the bottom as they got closer to the edge he paused to catch his breath. Further officers who arrived waded into waist deep water to assist and pulled both of them to the bank.

She had shallow breathing, was semi conscious, coughing up water and going into shock. She was unable to answer any questions and was mumbling incoherently. She was fully dressed including her shoes and her handbag across her shoulders.

The access to the area that they were in, approximately ten metres down a bank from the walkway was difficult to work in; she could not be brought up to the roadside.

Fire Rescue staff were called to assist with retrieving the girl. She was placed on a rescue stretcher and had to be pulled up the bank.

Ambulance staff then transported her to hospital in a serious but stable condition.

At risk to himself in trying conditions Mark Harrison had saved a life

Case 1733

MICHAEL KARAURIA

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

DAVID JON GOODMAN

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On Sunday 19 August 2012, at approximately 12.45pm Police became aware that there was an emergency at the mouth of the Tukituki River at Haumoana.

A kayak had overturned. A male and a four-year-old girl were in the water and had been washed out to sea towards a small shingle bar, which was referred to locally as an Island, 70 metres off the shoreline. The tide was coming in and the island would be underwater when the tide was full.

Coastguard, Search and Rescue and the rescue helicopter were placed on standby. The area in which the occupants were thrown out was a narrow channel at the end of the river mouth, where, between the river-mouth and the bar, there are strong whirling currents and undertows. The river flow was much higher than normal following recent rain in Hawkes Bay.

Two civilians, Michael Karauria (38) and David Goodman, who had seen the accident, took immediate action independently.

Mr. Karauria, a strong swimmer, who was wearing a wetsuit, swam out to the Island and assisted in pulling the two up onto the shingle to safety in the short term. It was a dangerous swim during which he had fears that the tide was taking him away from the bar and that he may not make it. He swam out on his own to assist and then swam back to shore,

Mr Goodman who had been whitebaiting and had seen the whole incident unfold could not believe what he was witnessing when the kayaker got into trouble in the currents and the kayak overturned.

Goodman knew the area extremely well and realized that it would be borderline whether the two would survive in the water conditions.

When Mr. Goodman saw that they were on the island he ran back to the carpark to get a long board, on which he managed to paddle out. He recovered the four-year-old girl who had been dragged under the water a number of times before reaching the island and brought her into the shore, where she was physically shaking and quite pale. She was cared for by a member of the public until the ambulance arrived and she was attended to by the ambulance officers before being taken to hospital.

The actions of Michael Karauria and David Goodman in the dangerous conditions had prevented a possible loss of life.

Case 1734 SHAYNE EDMOND RICHARD REIDY BRONZE MEDAL

On 8th March 2015 in the afternoon Shayne Reidy (50) was a passenger in a friend's car travelling on Arurimu Valley Road towards Whenuapai when, upon rounding a corner, they came upon a small car lying on the road on its driver's side, facing in their direction. There was smoke and there were flames coming from the engine bay. The vehicle had skidded in shingle and rolled, trapping the occupant who could be seen desperately trying to kick out the windscreen to escape.

Once they had parked their car Shayne Reidy climbed the bank at the roadside so that he could get onto the crashed car and endeavour to open the passenger's side door. This had been damaged and proved difficult to move. When after considerable effort he succeeded he established that the driver, a young 20 year-old Indian, was alone.

He reached into the car and pulled him out of the car and up the bank away from the car in which the fire was spreading. He was very shocked and disorientated but started to calm down when Mr Reidy's friend put him in his car and was able to speak to him in his own language.

Leaving the victim with his friend Shayne then walked to a nearby property to alert emergency services. The Fire Service were called and arrived 15 minutes later by which time the car was completely burnt out.

Shayne Reidy's actions had saved a life.

Case 1735	KAREN JAYNE ELLIS	BRONZE MEDAL
	SHANE CLAYTON FOXLEY	CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
	MARK FREDERICK FRANKLIN	CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On 14th May 2015; during the morning, the Police were called to the Waikanae River on the Kapiti Coast which was in high flood. The Wellington district had experienced heavier than usual rainfall overnight causing many local rivers, streams and a number of properties, to flood. An Upper Hutt cyclist was known to have been caught in the flood waters but his exact position was unclear. Due to the extreme level of the flood waters in the Waikanae River at that time, vehicle access was not possible in many areas.

Sergeant Karen Ellis (51) had responded along with a colleague to a call to rescue the cyclist. Once there, they noted there was no safe access along the river past the houses. When asked by her colleague about access to the river a nearby loader driver Mark Franklin who had excellent knowledge of the river offered to assist using his vehicle. Sergeant Ellis agreed to accompany Mr. Franklin in the loader while he drove carefully along what he believed was the edge of the river. She rode on the top of the loader to get a better view while endeavouring to locate the cyclist. They used voice and 'horn' appeal and finally located him on the opposite side of the river. He was precariously holding onto his mountain bike which was caught in the debris and river reeds. Mr Franklin made several attempts from different angles to access the cyclist but finally recognized that it would be unsafe for him to continue as the water was too deep for the loader. The loader had large wheels and at times the wheels were more than half covered by water.

Mr Franklin called an associate, Shane Foxley, a digger driver who was working nearby, to assist. He continued to try to gain access to the male by testing other areas until the digger arrived. When it did, Mr Foxley tested the depth of the river using the digger bucket and confirmed several times that the water was very deep. At one stage he thought he was in a good area to proceed and again tested the depth of the water but it was too deep and the digger went almost vertical.

He eventually found a spot where he was happy for the rescue to begin. As the rescue helicopter was still some distance away and the cyclist was becoming hypothermic and losing his strength, Sergeant Ellis made the decision to take immediate action

Karen Ellis was placed in the bucket of the digger. They then found a spot which enabled Mr Foxley to carefully extend the digger's long arm across the flooded water. At times the digger was balanced up on its two front wheels to enable the bucket holding Sergeant Ellis to reach over to the stranded man who had crawled towards the bucket and was assisted by Sergeant Ellis into it along with his bike. Mr Foxley then lifted the bucket onto the top of the loader where Mark Franklin assisted the cyclist.

Mr Foxley and, Mr Franklin reversed the digger and loader back out of the river to safety and medical attention

By their actions placing themselves at considerable risk in challenging circumstances Karen Ellis, Shayne Foxley, and Mark Franklin had prevented a probable fatality

Case 1736

IAN HASTINGS SOMERVILLE

BRONZE MEDAL

At approximately 10.00pm on Saturday 11th of May 2013, a house on Micklesons Road, Utiku caught fire

When the fire began, a female tenant was asleep in her bed and a male was in a bathroom at the rear.

The address was a short distance back off State Highway 1, Utiku, but clearly visible from the main highway.

As Ian Somerville (64) was heading South on State Highway 1 at 10.30pm and just as he got past Mickelsons Road he could see that there was a house on fire and could see a car out the front of the house. He immediately turned his vehicle around and headed up to the house which was well alight.

He parked his car on the edge of the road leading to the driveway of the house and left it running, pointing his headlights towards the house and left them on,

He went to the front of the house and banged on some windows which were facing towards the road. He noticed that the curtains were closed suggesting there must have been someone inside.

He got no reply from knocking on the windows and went to the front door and tried it. It opened. He went inside to look for occupants and called out, but got no reply at all.

At this point it was very dark and he could not see very well. There was some smoke.

He kept calling out while he was inside the house and finally heard a voice call out "yes". He went into a room on the left hand side of the front door where he found a young lady He grabbed her hand and led her outside. She had been asleep in that room.

At this point there was a lot more smoke along the back wall of the house. It was getting hard to breath.

When asked, the lady told him her fiancé was in a bathroom at the back of the house.

He ran down the side of the house where the fire was burning fiercely

He approached a door which proved to be the bathroom and tried the handle. He could not open the door until finally he opened it by kicking it in.

Inside he discovered the body of the young lady's fiancé who had been caught in the fire and was beyond help.

Shortly afterwards part of the house exploded just before Fire Services arrived.

By his actions Ian Somerville had saved a life.

Case 1737

**CONRAD ALEXANDER WAIHAPE
PHILIP ROYDON MANSON**

**BRONZE MEDAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Early In the evening of 2 January 2015 there was a house fire at an address in Sinclair Avenue, Nightcaps.

A garage/sleepout dwelling was the home of a 73 year- old retired man.

Conrad Waihape and Philip Manson heard their neighbour calling from inside the house. They responded and discovered that there was a fire in the interior of the home..

Entry was gained and the occupant was located lying on the lounge floor. He had suffered severe burns.

Philip Manson lived next door. He described his neighbour as a private man. He had seen him three days earlier when he seemed fine and was walking round as his normal jovial self.

On the day of the fire he noticed smoke drifting across his property. He went out onto his deck and heard his neighbour screaming for help. He went to the ranchslider, and saw the man laying on the floor a metre inside the building. As he opened the ranchslider and took a step inside, the glass exploded. He saw the lounge was full of smoke and saw a cushion from the couch burning on the floor. The couch against the wall was burnt out.

Manson had seen that the man had moved about a body length further back into the house away from the door.

He called to Conrad Waihape who entered the room and managed to pull the man about half he way back to the door by grabbing him under his arms, before he was forced to retreat to breath fresh air. He went back and made another attempt. He was then able to get him out of the building and away onto the grass where Manson and himself and Mrs Waihape had sprayed him with water to cool the burns.

Conrad had heard the man calling his name while he was moving towards the house.

While he was talking to Conrad he told him that he had not been able to move or walk all day. The fire appeared to have been caused when the man's little dog which often slept on the couch had knocked something over and it caught on fire.

The man, who was seriously burnt, was taken by helicopter to Dunedin hospital where he was admitted to ICU. He was treated for his burns and related conditions but did not survive.

Case 1738

**MURRAY EDWARD MICHIE
ANTHONY KORECHITO DUFFY
JAMIE REG YALDEN
STACEY OWEN WATT
KATIE SAMANTHA ELLIOTT**

**SILVER MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Shortly after 2.00 p.m on Saturday 11th July 201 5, four men and a young lady, who were previously unknown to each other, came across a vehicle accident at Mount Stewart, Manawatu on SH3 near Bulls.

The driver of a Mitsubishi Diamante who died instantly had been travelling in excess of 150 Km per hour on the wrong side of the road when he eventually lost control, hit a traffic island and then crashed head-on into a petrol fueled Toyota Landcruiser Prado driven by Susan Evans, with her three young daughters Gabrielle (15), Hannah (14) and Hayley (11), as passengers. She was towing a large horse float, in which there was a pony.

The Landcruiser and horse float jack-knifed, both turning upside down and then coming to rest, locked together, straddling a fence on the side of a steep bank. The combined effort of several people saved the four occupants of the upturned vehicle. Susan Evans and Hannah had serious injuries. The pony was released from the float unharmed

Murray Michie saw flames and smoke start in the upturned vehicle. He made his way over to it and worked to free all of the trapped occupants, leaving with survivors, and then returning. He re-entered the burning car three times.

the eldest of the daughters, Gabrielle, who had been sitting behind her sister Hannah who was in the passenger's seat, initially had her feet trapped between the seats. She was however able to free herself and climb out through the rear hatch after it was opened by Mr Michie. He carried her to safety and gave her to his wife and Stacey Watt. Mr Michie was aware that by this stage, the flames which started in the engine compartment were beginning to spread through the firewall. He knew that there were others still in the car. Going back into it he saw three more. They were wearing seatbelts which had tightened on impact. He was unable to release them; He called for someone to find a knife. Jamie Yalden who had just approached the scene had a pocket knife which he handed to him.

A fire extinguisher was located in the boot. Mr Michie retrieved it and passed it to Jamie Yalden who emptied it onto the fire.

Smoke was by this time billowing from the vehicle,

Now with the knife at hand, Mr Michie dived into the vehicle and began cutting the occupants free of their seatbelts.

When Mr Duffy, a truck driver and volunteer fireman arrived, he knew that they had little time left to remove the remaining passengers. He ran to the road seeking fire extinguishers. One person approached him with one which he emptied on to the fire before returning to the road looking for more. A number were given to him He used them to keep the fire at bay while Mr Michie worked on the seatbelts. The fire became so intense that it forced him to move away briefly before going into the car to help Murray Michie release Susan Evans, who had received serious injuries and was unconscious.

The rescuers had grown in numbers to include Stacey Watt and Katie Elliott. The four men and Katie Elliott worked together as a team to get Hannah, who suffered a badly broken leg, from the passenger seat. Hayley had been unconscious when she was removed from the seat behind her mother. This left only the driver, Susan Evans who was critically injured wedged between the front seats with her legs trapped behind the steering wheel. To remove her Michie cut her seatbelt and then with Duffy and Yalden who had kicked the driver's door out of the way, inside the car and Watt and Elliot helping from outside it, they were able to remove her from the car and carry her away from it. When she was clear Katie stemmed the flow of blood from the back of Susan's head;

The fire had grown in intensity throughout the ten minute rescue. The group were only 3 metres away from the wreck when the car exploded

St John Ambulance and Police and the Fire Services arrived and took control of the scene.

But for the actions of the group of five, each putting themselves in obvious danger, there would clearly have been many fatalities. .

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Case 1739 GREGORY SHELDON KENNETH WESTON BRONZE MEDAL

At Lake Taupo shortly after midnight on 4 September 2015, a 24 year-old woman who was a visitor, went swimming in the lake from Lake Terrace .

Conditions were cold with a south-westerly wind adding to the chill factor. The lake was rough and the water cold and deep. There was no light on the water..

After 20 minutes when her friends, could not see her in the dark, they became concerned. It transpired that she had apparently gone out too far and had become disoriented
Emergency services were alerted.

Sergeant Weston who was an experienced swimmer responded and upon his arrival believed that urgent action was necessary if the woman was to be helped. He could see her by torchlight.

Without any buoyancy aid he swam 100 metres to reach her. At that point she had been in the water for 35 minutes. She was suffering the effects of advanced hypothermia and on the verge of drowning.

Sergeant Weston brought her into the shore. She was conveyed to hospital for treatment.

Sergeant Weston was also taken to hospital as he himself was on the verge of hypothermia.

A drowning had been averted.

Case 1740 SCOTT ANDREW MCKENDRY CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On Wednesday 8 April, 2015, at Ewen Bridge, Lower Hutt, Constable McKendry was one of the Police officers who responded to a report that a man had climbed over the railings and jumped into the river.

The area had been subjected to torrential rain. The river flow rate was high as a result.

It had been reported that there was a male in the river on the western side floating south in the current.

Constable McKendry considered that his best course of action was to cross the Moera Bridge and head towards Randwick Crescent to gain a better observation point, But once there he noticed that there were few police on the western side of the river.

Using his initiative Constable McKendry ran across the rail bridge towards the western bank. He then ran north along the river bank to a clearing for a better view and provide access to the river. As he was running up the riverbank he saw the man floating in the river approximately 15 metres from the bank.

McKendry removed his SRBA vest and, entering the water, he waded out towards the man, with the water reaching chest height He is not a short person..

He was able to intercept the floating man who was unresponsive and apparently unconscious. He grabbed hold of him. and dragged him back to shore, where he endeavoured to drag him out of the water; which was a struggle until help arrived.

The man was removed to the clearing where Constable McKendry and others who had arrived rendered First Aid until the arrival of the ambulance.

The man was admitted to Hutt Hospital where he was treated for leg fractures.

At the time of the rescue it is estimated the river was flowing at flood level

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Given the flow of the river, together with the injuries he sustained, it is highly likely that without the intervention of Constable McKendry this man would almost certainly have drowned.

Clearly Constable McKendry had placed himself at considerable personal risk in executing this successful rescue.

Case 1741	PAYGE RACHEL OLDS	SILVER MEDAL
	JONATHAN DANBY DERRICK	BRONZE MEDAL
	LOGAN JAMES TE RANGIHIKU MASON	BRONZE MEDAL

At 10.30pm on Monday 30th of March 2015, in Wellington Harbour near Burden's Gate, Eastbourne which is a difficult rocky area ,Payge Olds(16)was one of five young people who responded to the cries for help from a drowning man. Those cries were first heard by Jonathon Derrick (26) and Colin Natrass. Derrick ran down the beach to where Olds and her cousin Kelly McKay (15) and a friend Logan Mason (26) were and sought their support

They ran back to the spot on the beach where the cries for help had been heard.

They were faced with a situation created by the risks of entering the water in the dark on a difficult rocky shoreline with poor visibility in which to try to find the victim.

Payge Olds, who was not a strong swimmer, entered the water and swam out on her back so that she could gauge her direction from the light of a torch being held by Natrass. Once she got to the approximate location, she searched and located the man, 70 metres from the shore. He was unconscious and floating face down in the water,.

With great effort she turned him over so that his face was out of the water and attempted to swim him back to shore.

He was much heavier than she was and this was a real trial of strength. His dead weight was beginning to drag her down. She quickly began to struggle, but she would not leave him, and had the presence of mind to call back to shore for help. Waiting for help to arrive was a trying experience for her

Jonathon Derrick and Logan Mason heard her calling. They, like Payge Olds, were not confident swimmers with little training in life saving swimming techniques. They entered the water and swam to her assistance.

Once they reached Payge, Derrick took the man, from her and took his weight in the water, while keeping his face above it.

Olds and Mason, swam on either side of them providing support, and helped swim them to shore.

Kelly McKay met them and helped drag the man ashore, where he was placed in the recovery position. She had experience with CPR and when she saw that he was not breathing he was rolled onto his back and she and Derrick worked together for several cycles of compressions and breaths. The breaths could not be continued because of water and foam coming from his mouth. Kelly continued with compressions until the emergency services arrived.

Her humane and praiseworthy action while attempting to revive him in difficult circumstances was recognized separately by the Society with a Letter of Appreciation.

The rescuers through their endeavours had provided the man with a chance of survival which he would not otherwise have had. The man sadly died in hospital three days later.

Case 1742 CHRISTOPHER DAVID POLGLASE CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On the 1st December 2014 on Whitiroa Bridge Hamilton a member of the public who was driving over the bridge saw an elderly man, climbing the bridge rails. He was seen to climb over the rail, and then hold onto it with one hand.

The witness advised a passing Constable in his marked Police car, who then saw the man let go of the rail and fall into the Waikato River. A fall of twenty five metres. He was then seen floating face down, drifting north.

Constable Polglase when he was alerted had gone to a park area downstream, and located the man floating face down in the water, near the middle of the river.

Removing his safety vest he entered the water and swam out to him He supported the man who was unresponsive and showing no signs of life. They had drifted 250 metres downstream before Constable Polglase was assisted in pulling the man to the shore. Once out of the water a doctor who was walking alongside the river confirmed that the man was dead.

Conditions in the Waikato River are hazardous and unpredictable with deep water and strong currents, submerged and floating logs and debris and difficult foliage on the banks, which pose a significant risk to any person attempting a rescue, such as Christopher Polglase has done on this occasion.